

What is claimed is:

1. A workflow control method in a workflow system for carrying out a plurality of business processes, said workflow control method comprising the steps of:

5 storing beforehand changes to be detected in business processes when a plurality of related business processes are executed simultaneously by computers; and

sl AD detecting an occurrence of the change in one of the plurality of business processes.

10 2. The workflow control method according to claim 1, wherein the changes in the business processes to be detected include at least either discontinuance or delay of the business processes.

15 3. The workflow control method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of notifying at least one of said computers executing the related business processes of said detected change in the business process.

20 4. The workflow control method according to claim 3 further comprising the step of referring to a business process execution instruction provided by a workflow engine, and rules defining the relation between preset procedures and the computers, and selecting the computers executing the related business processes.

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25 5. A workflow system for executing a plurality of business processes comprising a plurality of procedures, said workflow

system comprising:

a status watcher which detects a change in a business process being executed; and

a workflow engine which refers to data given thereto by the status watcher and predetermined business definitions and controls the execution of the business processes.

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6. The workflow system according to claim 5, wherein the status watcher detects either discontinuance or delay of the business process.

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7. The workflow system according to claim 5 further comprising a notifier which notifies related computers of the change in the condition of execution of the business process detected by the status watcher.

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8. The workflow system according to claim 7 further comprising a resource selector which refers to a business process execution instruction provided by the workflow engine and rules defining the relation between the predetermined procedures and computers, and selects said related computer for carrying out the next procedure.

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9. A storage medium capable of reading out stored information therefrom by a computer which stores programs for realizing the workflow control method defined in claim 3 as said stored information.

Add p3

add B4